

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated June 15, 2005. Reconsideration of the application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1 - 8 have been canceled and new claims 9 - 15 have been added. Claims 9 - 15 are currently pending. New claims 9 - 15 have been added in an effort to better define the scope of the invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the addition of claims 9 - 15. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 7 has now been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be removed.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by GB 2,367,768. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by *Osborn* (US 4,580,372). Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by *Whitney* (US 84,453). Claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by *Callaway* (US 5,564,232).

Claims 1 - 7 have been canceled from the application and Applicant, therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be removed. Note that Applicant does not believe that new Claims 9 -

15 are anticipated by any of the foregoing references cited by the Examiner inasmuch as the attachment of a handle to a sheet whereby a portion of the handle is attached to one side of the sheet and another portion of the handle is attached to the other side of the sheet is not disclosed or taught. More specifically,

1. GB 2,367,768 (*Hill*) discloses the use of a heavy gauge plastic fabric for mixing cement by hand but does not teach or describe the use of external handles.
2. US 4,580,372 (*Osborn*) discloses the use of disc-shaped grommets to be used as handles on a tarpaulin but does not teach the attachment of handles to both sides of the tarpaulin.
3. US 84,453 (*Whitney*) discloses eyelets in the periphery of a sheet of waterproof paper but does not disclose the use of handles or the attachment of handles to both sides of the tarpaulin.
4. US 5,564,232 (*Callaway*) discloses a tarpaulin having openings through which a retainer may be removably inserted but does not disclose the use of handles or the attachment of handles to both sides of the tarpaulin.

Inasmuch as the art cited by the Examiner does not disclose the attachment of a handle to a plastic sheet as described in new claims 9 – 15, the Applicant respectfully suggests that new claims 9 – 15 are in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over US 4,580,372 (*Osborn*). Claim 8 has now been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be removed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance.

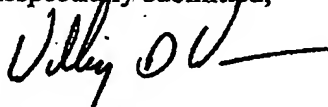
Please direct all future correspondence for the above-identified application, and direct all telephone calls, to:

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A new power of attorney is transmitted herewith.

Please charge the fee of \$300.00 for the new independent claims, as well as any additional required fees, to DuBois, Bryant, Campbell & Schwartz, LLP/Deposit Account No. 50-3468.

Respectfully submitted,



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